

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered by _____ of _____

Amend SS/HS/House Bill No. 297, Page 13, Section 166.502, Line 35,

2 by inserting after all of said line the following:

3 "170.341. 1. Any school district may offer students
4 elective social studies courses relating, but not limited,
5 to the following:

6 (1) The Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament of the
7 Bible;

8 (2) The New Testament of the Bible; or

9 (3) The Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the
10 Bible.

11 2. The purpose of a course under this section is to:

12 (1) Teach students knowledge of biblical content,
13 characters, poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to
14 understanding contemporary society and culture, including
15 literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy;
16 and

17 (2) Familiarize students with, as applicable:

18 (a) The contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
19 Testament;

20 (b) The history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
21 Testament;

22 (c) The literary style and structure of the Hebrew
23 Scriptures or New Testament; and

24 (d) The influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
25 Testament on law, history, government, literature, art,
26 music, customs, morals, values, and culture.

27 3. A student shall not be required to use a specific
28 translation as the sole text of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
29 Testament and may use as the basic textbook a different
30 translation of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament from
31 that chosen by the school district.

32 4. A course offered under this section shall follow
33 applicable law and all federal and state guidelines in
34 maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the
35 diverse religious views, traditions, and perspectives of
36 students in the school. A course offered under this section
37 shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or disfavor or show
38 hostility toward, any particular religion or nonreligious
39 faith or religious perspective.

40 5. School districts, in complying with this section,
41 shall not violate any provision of the Constitution of the
42 United States or federal law, the Constitution of Missouri
43 or any state law, or any administrative regulations of the
44 department of elementary and secondary education or the
45 United States Department of Education."; and

46 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.